



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,432	10/15/2003	Yoshiyuki Sasaki	R2184.0266/P266	3897
24998	7590	09/23/2008		
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP				
1825 EYE STREET NW				
Washington, DC 20006-5403				
EXAMINER				
GOMA, TAWFIK A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2627				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/23/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The amendments to the specification filed on 9/09/2008 are accepted and entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/9/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments that the user bitmap of Mine does not label the blocks as either recorded or unrecorded are not persuasive because the user bitmap of Mine uses a bit "1" to signify an area that is recorded with user data, and a "0" for all other areas on the disc. The controller interprets the information in the user bitmap to mean that areas having a "1" are recorded and areas having a "0" are unrecorded (see col. 9 lines 39-43 and col. 10 lines 64-65). That is, the user bitmap, in and of itself does not signify that an area contains user data or finalization data as asserted by applicant. When the information of the user bitmap is combined with the information of the WBBM, the system is capable of determining which areas are finalization information areas and which areas are user recorded areas (fig. 14a).

Secondly, the controller's determination that an area contains finalization or dummy data is a disclosure of managing the area with the dummy data as an unrecorded region because in identifying the areas having dummy data, the controller is able to identify that they are unrecorded with meaningful or user data.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAWFIK GOMA whose telephone number is (571)272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph H. Feild/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2627

/Tawfik Goma/
Examiner, Art Unit 2627